

# EC 501 B1: Microeconomic Theory

Fall 2019, Class: Tu Th 12:30-1:45 in EPC 205, Section: F 4:40-5:30 in HAR 404

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Office Hours:	Tu 9-10:30, Th 10-11:30	M 2:30-4, W 4-5:30

**Overview:** This course is the Master's level offering in microeconomics, in which we study the functioning of the economy by looking at the behavior of individual agents: consumers, producers and the government. The approach is mathematical.

**Prerequisites:** You must have taken courses in intermediate microeconomics and multivariate calculus.

**Examinations and grades:** Your grade will be determined as follows:

20% on required problem sets,

30% on an **in-class mid-term exam (time and place TBA)**, and

50% on a **final exam (to be held on a date to be announced later)**.

Examinations will be closed-book. Make-up examinations are offered only in the case of extreme and documented emergencies. **No make-up final examinations will be given to accommodate travel plans that conflict with the assigned final exam date. Please make your travel plans EARLY.** University policy also requires me to remind you that you are expected to be familiar with the CAS Academic Conduct Code, and that I am required to report all violations of this to the Dean's office.

**Problem Sets:** There will be regularly assigned problem sets (12 in all) which must be turned in on their due dates, announced in class. **Late problem sets will not be accepted; the solutions are handed out at the time when the assignments are turned in.** You are encouraged to work together on the problem sets, by actively discussing approaches to solutions (**not by copying one another's work!**). The purpose of the problem sets is to help you learn the material, not to test you. Practice problems are at the end of each chapter of the textbook; answers to these are at the back of the book.

**Textbook: Pankaj Tandon: *A Textbook of Microeconomic Theory*, SAGE, 2015 (ISBN 978-93-515-0739-0);** available at the BU Bookstore. **Make sure you get the correct ISBN number! The same title with a different ISBN is an incorrect version.**

**Class discussion:** It is important that you understand what is discussed in class. For this reason, it is vital that you ask questions in class to make sure you understand the material.

**Contacting me:** My office hours (posted above) are times when you can stop by my office without an appointment to ask questions or otherwise discuss issues that come up. In addition, I check my email several times a day and generally respond promptly. You can use

this method to ask questions, or to set up appointments. However, the best forum to ask substantive questions about the class (other than in class itself) is the Class Discussion Board.

**Course Homepage:** Links to all relevant web pages are available on the course homepage:  
<http://people.bu.edu/ptandon/501f19-home.html>

**Class Discussion Board:** All students should sign up for membership in the class discussion board, which is based in Yahoo! Groups. Instructions on joining the Group are on the course homepage. Use this forum to ask questions about material discussed in class, about the problem sets, exams, or any other subject of relevance to the class. Posing your questions there allows others to see them and to see my answers as well. And of course other students can also respond or comment and get a discussion going.

I invite your comments and suggestions for improvement of the textbook; also, please point out any errors and typos that you see. The best way to comment is to post on the Discussion Board.

**Teaching Assistant:** The TA will grade the problem sets, hold the discussion sections, and hold office hours. If you have any questions about the grading of your problem set, you should go to the TA for an explanation.

## **Class Schedule** (subject to change)

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading Assignment</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1. Theory of the Consumer	Chapters 2-4	Sept 3 – 26
2. Theory of the Firm	Chapter 5	Oct 1 - 8
3. Markets, partial & general equilibrium	Chapters 6-7	Oct 10 – 24
<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b>		TBA
4. Uncertainty & Information	Chapter 8	Oct 29 – 31
5. Monopoly and Regulation	Chapter 9	Nov 5 - 14
6. Theory of Games	Chapter 10	Nov 19
7. Imperfect Competition	Chapter 11	Nov 21 – Dec 3
8. Externalities, Public Goods & Social Choice	Chapter 12	Dec 5 – 10
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>		TBA